

Las Vegas Minister Says:

Control of Gambling a 'Misguided Hope'

People are going to gamble, so why not legalize it and control it.

To Californians who think this way as they decide what to do about a state lottery on Tuesday Las Vegas Methodist minister, the Rev. Robert Brashares, has a word of advice. It doesn't work out.

Control through legislation has been a "misguided hope" in Nevada and elsewhere, he told 60 church leaders at a Methodist conference on gambling in Gardena. The Rev. Mr. Brashares is pastor of First Methodist Church, Las Vegas.

"Control is bait for legislation, but control never becomes a reality. Nevada legalized gambling in 1931 to legally limit it to clubs. But today you find slot machines in drug stores and groceries, in the airport and bus station, almost everywhere except in church. Other states — New York, Florida, Maryland and others — have discovered the same thing."

COUNTERING the argument that a lottery could provide revenue by legalizing

gambling, he asked, "What kind of government has to finance itself by exploiting the weakness of its people, making income dependent upon the increase of vice?"

Many things come with gambling, including: money to support organized crime; an increase in the number of criminals resident in the community; a higher crime rate (example, Las Vegas consistently leads the nation); destruction of personality (highest suicide rate in the nation); vice and corruption, "including influence on all political levels;" and a "new society with gambling executives in places of leadership."

"Gambling is on the increase everywhere. It may be a forecast of things to come for the whole nation, if we do not discover constructive uses

for our increasing leisure and prosperity."

GAMBLING GROWS from a pagan religion in conflict with Christianity. The god of gamblers is money; luck and chance are the guiding principals of their action. Man is nothing and money is everything. Man is a means to be exploited and money is the end and ultimate value, he said.

"Gambling is not only bad religion, it is bad economics, involving a redistribution of wealth which is not based upon productivity. It diverts money which could otherwise be used to meet human needs, to purchase goods and services."

The Church has been influenced "more than we realize," Mr. Brashares commented. "Religious and charitable

groups have always been the opening wedge for bringing in gambling."

"So-called innocent gambling by respectable groups is just the beginning of something bigger. It teaches the people to gamble and softens up the community for the entrance of big-time gambling—of both legal and illegal varieties."

THE CHURCH, he warned, has been "passive about gambling at the very time the

gamblers have been most ac-

tive. The result is that gambling is growing by leaps and bounds in the United States. The Church has barely noticed what is happening and said anything about it, not to mention giving leadership or calling for a legislative program of reform. We have been passive too long!"

The great responsibility of

the Church, he concluded, is

to preach and live the true religion which meets the need for real life, excitement and adventure. "When the excitement and the action isn't in the Church, then we meet our board members at the track or in Las Vegas."

"Today we have something better — the real world and God's action here. Our world

is being reshaped by count-

less revolutions. A God of judgement as well as love is continuing his creation. When we put more vitality into our worship and witness, and more reality into our message and ministry, the 'action' will be in the Church, and our people won't need to buy lottery tickets or head for Las Vegas."

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Narbonne Hi Grads Enter Bible School

Two Torrance students are enrolled as freshmen this semester in Life Bible College, Los Angeles.

They are Gil E. Gilchrist, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Gilchrist of 1062 W. 228th St., and Annette M. Smedes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Smedes of 1333 W. 213th St. Both students are graduates of Narbonne High School.

Miss Smedes is active in the First Southern Baptist Church of Gardena. Gilchrist, who attended Harbor College, is a member of the Carson Avenue Foursquare Church.

Area Chapter Of ORT Sets Chapel Party

A benefit theater party will be held by the South Bay Chapter of Women's ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training) at Chapel Theatre, 4164 Pacific Coast Highway, Nov. 1, at 8:30 p.m.

Proceeds from this performance of the comedy "Heavenly Weekend" will be contributed to funds to equip and maintain ORT's 600 vocational training schools in 22 countries.

Further information is available by contacting Mrs. Alvin B. Eisenberg, chairman, at DA 6-0984.

Shinder Named Top Tuba Player

Neal Shinder, a junior at West High, has been named as the outstanding tuba player in Southern California as a result of high school band competition at California State College at Los Angeles.

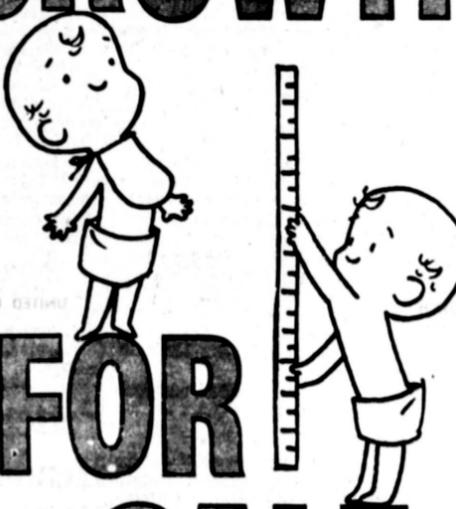
Shinder, a member of the Warrior Band, will appear as the tuba player with the All-Southern California Orchestra.

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